

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**  
August 13, 1996

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, August 13, 1996, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board members present were Dewayne Naumann, Phil Friday, Rocky Medrano, Marianne Dwight, Hermelinda Zamarripa, Elaine Carter, Rosemary Castleberry, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Mary K. Isaacs and Louise Nivison, Member Emeritus.

Staff members present were Kim Jamail Mitchell, Mary Ybarbo, Kendall Moss, Peter Marsh, Warren Struss, Otis Williams, Jim Halbrook, Heather Griffith Peterson and Jesus M. Olivares, Director.

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Phil Friday, Chair.

**B. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

See Below

**C. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

There were none.

**D. ITEMS FOR ACTION**

**ITEMS FOR CONSENT**

**Consider and Make Recommendations Regarding Safe and Prudent Night Time Speed Guidelines for Watercraft on Lake Austin and Lake Walter E. Long.**

As read by the Director from a prepared memo, the Department including Park Police Lake Patrol and the LCRA's Lake Austin Advisory Panel, are recommending that operation of watercraft on Lake Austin and Lake Walter E. Long at a speed in excess of 20 mph (17 knots) between sunset and sunrise will be considered unreasonable, imprudent and excessive. Operation of water craft at speeds in excess of 20 mph during these times will be considered in violation of the Texas Water Safety Act.

Dewayne Naumann, member of the Navigation Committee, said the committee is in agreement with the recommendation.

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Jerry Zanders, homeowner on Lake Austin, spoke in favor of the night time speed guidelines.

Bob Stewart, Member of the Architectural Committee of the Cliff over Lake Austin Homeowners Association spoke in favor of the night time speed guidelines.

Stephen Pyle, citizen, spoke about noise pollution from large cigarette type boats, water quality and noise problems from jet skis or wave runner type aquatic vehicles.

Howard Mack, homeowner, spoke in favor of the night time speed guidelines.

Ken Hornbaker, boat owner, spoke against the night time speed guidelines.

There was some concern from the Board that they had not been given enough time to review the recommendation and inquired how the recommendation would be implemented. This would be done through press releases and posting of signs at all public ramps.

Rocky Medrano motioned to accept the recommendation that operating a watercraft on Lake Austin and Lake Walter E. Long at a speed in excess of 20 mph between sunset and sunrise will be considered unreasonable, imprudent and excessive and that a two week grace period of issuing warnings will be extended to boat users until August 28th. Mary K. Isaacs seconded.

The vote was 7-0 in favor (Medrano, Isaacs, Naumann, Carter, Friday, Castleberry, Dwight) 2 abstained (Cruz-Torres, Zamarripa)

#### ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

##### Lonestar Riverboat Concession Status Report

Heather Griffith Peterson, Division Manager for Management Services, brought the Board up to date on the Town Lake Concessions. These include Lone Star Riverboat, Butler Pitch & Putt, Texas Rowing, Zilker Canoe Rentals, Zilker Eagle Train and Barton Springs Food & Beverage. In 1987 as a part of the Town Lake Comprehensive Plan, the City Council extended by 5 years the contracts for the existing Town Lake Concessions. This was done until a comprehensive ordinance could be adopted. The Town Lake Ordinance directed that a policy on concessions be developed. In 1990 the Parks Board adopted a Concession Policy, which included public review and direction on contract provisions.

In the spring of 1993 contracts were awarded to Barton Springs Food & Beverage and the Butler Pitch & Putt Concessions, the first awards under the new policy. That same spring the City Council adopted a revised concession policy which called for public input, among other things.

In July 1993 the Parks Board held Public Hearings on the renewal of the Zilker Eagle Train, Texas Rowing, Zilker Canoe Rental and the Lone Star Riverboat. As a result of these hearings the Board made several recommendations such as RFP's should require no less than 10% revenue; the train should be converted to an alternate fuel and environmental impact should be considered.

As a result of the direction from Council negotiations for new contracts with the Lone Star Riverboat and Texas Rowing were halted, while the Financial and Administrative Services Department performed audits on the Lone Star Riverboat, Zilker Canoe Rental and Texas Rowing. Additionally, the Department implemented an annual contract review system, which includes comprehensive reviews of at least two concessions.

The purpose of the audit was to ensure that the city was receiving its share of revenues from these businesses and that they were adhering to the terms stipulated in each individual contract. Concessionaires felt that the City's reporting requirements were too stringent. Findings agreed that in



some cases the requirements may be a little intense, however, daily transaction reports, deposit slips and monthly bank reconciliation were not available to City auditors. In January of 1996 these findings were presented to the City Council's Audit and Finance Sub-Committee. This sub-committee indicated that they were not in favor of using the percentage of gross revenue method as the way of determining concessionaire payments and wanted to see fixed monthly payments. They further requested that a resolution providing Council direction on this matter be brought back to the Audit and Finance Sub-Committee.

In order to determine how other cities handled concessionaire payments, a nation-wide survey was conducted this summer to determine the method of concessionaire payment used by Parks Departments with similar demographics. The data collected indicates that there is not a pattern or definitive way of developing concessionaire fees and methods of charging. Each parks department has a slightly different method of achieving objectives and has a different set of circumstances and motivations for utilizing the concessionaire contract methods.

Ms. Griffith Peterson asked the Parks Board to provide their input in developing a resolution for Council action. The Chairman asked that at the next board meeting an item concerning appointments to a Concessions sub-committee be put on the agenda. The Board also asked to have copies of the audit reports mailed to them.

#### Election of Officers

Jesus Olivares, Director, conducted the election of officers and asked for nominations from the floor for the Chair position.

Erma Linda Cruz-Torres nominated Rosemary Castleberry as Chair. Elaine Carter seconded.

Mary K. Isaacs nominated Phil Friday as Chair. Dewayne Naumann seconded.

The vote was 6-3 to elect Rosemary Castleberry as Chair.

Marianne Dwight thanked Phil for his service to the board.

Rosemary assumed the Chair position.

Marianne Dwight nominated Rocky Medrano for Vice-Chair. Elaine Carter seconded. There were no other nominations. The vote was 8-0 to accept.

Marianne Dwight nominated Elaine Carter for Secretary. Erma Linda Cruz-Torres seconded. There were no other nominations. The vote was 9-0 to accept.

The nominations ceased.

#### Set Date and Location for Annual Retreat

Saturday, September 28, 1996 was the date chosen for the annual board retreat. It will take place at Reicher Ranch.

Recommendation to Capital Metro Board Regarding a Joint Venture with Travis County for Development of Springbrook Soccer Complex

At the last board meeting members requested that a letter endorsing a proposal by Commissioner Karen Sonleitner to participate in a joint use Park and Ride facility at the county's Springbrook Soccer Complex in Pflugerville be drafted for their signatures and sent to Capital Metro. Phil Friday announced the first letter had been sent without his signature and that he would draft another version for Rosemary's signature. Marianne Dwight motioned to accept this offer. By a vote of 8-0 it was accepted (Carter, Isaacs, Cruz-Torres, Castleberry, Naumann, Zamarripa, Friday, Dwight) (Medrano was out of the room at time of vote).

Recommendation to Council Regarding Budget

Members expressed concerns regarding the salary levels of temporary/seasonal employees and the necessity of competing with private industry. Other members expressed concern about Park Police salary, the need for additional officers on the lake and the need to update their equipment and the need for more boats. There was additional talk about budget items. Council Member Beverly Griffith's article entitled Fighting Juvenile Crime with Urban Parks and Recreation: A National Trend Leaving Austin Behind? was discussed and the result of this discussion prompted Phil Friday to make a recommendation to Council to waive PARD's utility fees and authorize PARD to use the \$1.5 million to provide the city's part of the seed money for a combined effort by the School District, the City and Travis County Juvenile Authorities to turn our juvenile crime statistics around by prioritizing PARD programs designed to meet the recreational and academic support needs of our low income neighborhoods. It was seconded by Marianne Dwight. The vote was 9-0 to accept recommendation (Cruz-Torres, Carter, Naumann, Dwight, Castleberry, Isaacs, Medrano, Zamarripa, Friday)

**E. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Members were encouraged to attend dedication ceremonies for the Oswaldo "A.B." Cantu Pan American Recreation Center on Saturday, August 17th at 10:00 a.m.

There will be a Fundraising, Time Management, Planning and Evaluation Workshop at the Dougherty Art Center on Tuesday, August 27th with Jack Anderson, Division Manager of Cultural Affairs, as one of the presenters and members were encouraged to attend.

**F. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Erma Linda Cruz-Torres informed the board the Programs Committee's goals and objections will be presented at the retreat. Among all the programs the department sponsors she mentioned the Texas Young Playwrights Festival, The Artists Market and the Hillside Theatre production of Once Upon a Mattress.



#### G. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Hermelinda Zamarripa would like to see subcommittee meeting days changed so that she could consider serving on one of them.

Marianne Dwight is resigning from her position on the Downtown Commission. Phil Friday was appointed as her replacement.

Phil Friday encouraged members to attend the public hearing of the draft budget on August 15.

Phil Friday stated Milosav Cekic is interested in bringing back the Cancer Survivors Plaza project for another board review.

#### H. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dewayne Naumann noted that on page 4 of the minutes, it should read American Statesman and not America Statesman. With this request the Board approved the minutes of August 13 with a vote of 9-0 (Cruz-Torres, Dwight, Naumann, Castleberry, Isaacs, Medrano, Zamarripa, Friday, Carter)

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.